



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Board of Selectmen minutes, 12/09/2002

**TOWN OF ARLINGTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 9, 2002
7:15 p.m.

Present: Mrs. Dias, Chairman, Mr. Hurd, Vice Chair, Mr. Lyons, Mrs. Mahon, and Mr. Greeley

Also Present: Mrs. Galkowski, Mr. Maher, and Mrs. Krepelka

1. For Discussion: Dallin School

School Committee Members and Permanent Town Building Committee
The School Committee and the Town Permanent Building Committee met with the Board of Selectmen to discuss the Dallin School construction project and its ramifications for the Town. The Permanent Town Building Committee must decide whether to proceed with final designs of the school. Plans are expected to cost about \$500,000. to complete.

The fiscal situation of both the State and Town has raised concerns that Dallin School plans may become obsolete by the time the Town can build the facility. Although it is the committee's decision to make, the Permanent Town Building Committee asked the School Committee and Board of Selectmen for guidance on how to proceed. The PTBC must make its final vote on December 17, 2002.

The School Committee had previously recommended to delay the final designs by six months which would provide the Town with a clearer financial picture on which to base construction decisions. Suzanne Owayda stated that right now they have no idea what the financial situation will be and wait two months for the Governor's new budget.

Superintendent Donovan stated she felt getting a bond could prove daunting without the State's funding in place. She feels that it would be difficult to get bond money at this time unless we have some kind of time frame. Mrs. Donovan also feels a delay allows more ability to answer questions.

Mr. Lyons stated interest rates and construction costs at the present time are lower than ever and the Town should take advantage of this opportunity now. In his opinion the voters have already spoken on the issue by approving the debt exclusion, therefore, the fiscal implications of this are not part of the equation. The issue is that the final designs must be finished so that a cost estimate can be ready for Town Meeting to make decisions.

Town Treasurer John Bilafer sent a letter to Department of Revenue asking whether the Town can take out a permanent bond if the State's reimbursement is not officially awarded.

A letter was also sent by Jacqueline Harrington, Precinct 12 Town

Meeting Member, asking how the State will handle reimbursements if the Town's bond is paid off before the reimbursement period ends. Mrs. Harrington stated that the State has allocated \$15 million for school reimbursement rates this year and previous years saw reimbursement funding as high as \$44 million. Mrs. Harrington stated that between 1994 and 1999 the average State allotment was \$17 million and that the State, when it had "tons of money" in 2000 and 2001 put more money in. She also stated that if the projected 3 billion dollar State deficit was correct, that it represented a 13% decrease, which, if applied to school building assistance would result in an allotment of \$13 million and, at that rate, we could be funded in the seventh year. However, waiting for this year's budget to determine when we would be funded was nonsense since no one year's funding can predict future years. Mrs. Harrington stated that the current figure is more closely aligned with the State's school funding history. Mrs. Harrington stated that she agrees with Mr. Lyons to go forward at this time because of better construction prices and lower interest rates, and also because waiting may find the architect unavailable or demanding an additional fee for remaining available. Going forward now also allows us time to try to lower the cost of the Dallin School from more than \$12 million to nearer the \$10.7 million contained in the chart used during the override, so as to preserve funds for the remaining two schools. It also will allow time to go out to bid more than once to seek the best price and still meet the demolition timetable. The decision is either to go to construction before receipt of State funds or not. In order to go to bid, we need the plans. Trying to keep the issue off the warrant and thus out of Town Meeting is not an honorable thing to do and she hoped the Board would not do it.

Mr. Martin Thrope, Arlington School Committee member, stated he felt Mr. Lyons remarks were very compelling but would support the School Committee decision.

Mrs. Barbara Goodman, Arlington School Committee member, stated that it is not an easy decision to make when you are spending \$500,000. on architectural plans that we may lose if we do not get reimbursement.

Mrs. Mahon stated she feels that the Permanent Town Building Committee should move forward especially with the lower interest rates at this time. She stated that we need to move forward and basically see what the future holds.

Mr. Greeley thanked the School Committee and Permanent Town Building Committee for being here tonight and stated that he stands behind them in the decision but is still committed to get the work done that the voters asked for.

Mr. Schlichtman, Arlington School Committee member, asked for a six-month window so they could make an intelligent decision.

Mr. Hurd stated that he felt all members of both committees are committed to rebuild Dallin and the other two schools.

Mr. Lyons made a motion that the Permanent Town Building Committee continue prudently, wisely, and expeditiously. All Selectmen agreed unanimously.

Mrs. Dias feels that with low interest rates and construction costs at its lowest prices we should move forward. Mrs. Dias did say she had heard talk of an override effort after the holidays and that she would be willing to listen to the issues and that Town Meeting would decide on

the override. Also, the Board of Selectmen cannot guarantee that extra costs of rebuilding schools will come out of capital costs instead of operating costs.

Mr. Lyons also suggests that in order to get a more realistic deficit figure to begin dialogue on how to handle the situation, the Board should: 1) create a sub-committee to look at budget cuts and budget issues such as health insurance and special ed, 2) spending criteria and spending caps, and 3) concerning the State turning back to the municipalities, set up a meeting with Governor Romney for a discussion.

2. For Discussion: Alewife Reservation Master Plan

Alan McClenen, Jr., Director, Planning and Community Development
Joey Glushko, Planner

Mr. McClenen presented a summary of the MDC Master Plan for Alewife Reservation.

The plan connects people and neighborhoods to the reservation as a resource. The four

goals are: 1) Improve water quality and restoration of water hydrology
2) Protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat
3) Improvement of recreational, educational, and cultural opportunities
4) Provision for maintenance that minimizes cost and maximizes effectiveness

Overall, there were generally favorable comments on the plan but there are concerns about wildlife, path routes, recreational usage, flooding, and maintenance. It is a federally funded project and Mr. McClenen encourages whenever possible the continuation of this planning process.

Kristen Anderson of the East Arlington Good Neighbor Committee asked the Selectmen to ensure a proper public hearing/meeting that is publicized so that residents can attend. The Selectmen informed her of a meeting January 6, 2003 at 8:00 p.m. location still to be decided.

The Committee concerns are:

- 1) The MDC has not paid attention to prior public input.
- 2) They would like to get the MDC list of encroachments.
- 3) Flooding, safety, maintenance, and parking concerns.

Mr. Lyons moved to approve with an invitation to Senator Havern and Representative Paulsen to come to the January 6, 2003 meeting to help.

SO VOTED (5-0)

3. For Discussion: Acceptance of Gift

Frederick Ryan, Police Director

Police Director Ryan asked the Selectmen to authorize acceptance of the very generous

gift of six high-end defibrillators and training from Armstrong. The Board of Selectmen thanked Mr. Armstrong and his staff for their generosity.

Mr. Greeley moved approval.

SO

VOTED (5-0)

Mrs. Dias asked the Board to write to the President for completion of the First Responders funding by March 1, 2003.

Mr. Hurd moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

LICENSES & PERMITS

4. License Renewals

Common Victualler

Wine & Malt Beverages Only

All Alcohol Restaurant
All Alcohol Club
Hackney Carriage & Public Automobile
Class I
Class II and Non-Premise Wholesale
Lodging Houses
Fortune Telling
Public Entertainment
Food Vendor
Mr. Greeley moved approval except for Public Entertainment.

SO VOTED (5-0)

Regarding Public Entertainment-The Regent Theatre is not in compliance of the fire codes:

1. fire/smoke detectors
2. fire suppression system

The Board wants the Theatre to be brought up to code as soon as possible.

Mr. Greeley moved to recommend Mr. Adelson come before the Board with a plan to bring the Theatre up to code before license renewal approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

5. Request for Pro Rata Adjustment/Wine & Malt Beverage License

Full Moon, Caroline Wheaton, 138 Mass. Ave.

The Board agreed to the request of owner, Mrs. Wheaton, to prorate the license fee.

Mr. Greeley moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

6. Common Victualler License

Kostas House of Pizza, Inc., Villa House of Pizza, Charles Dinis, Pres.
1367-1369 Mass. Ave.

Mr. Lyons moved approval.

SO

VOTED (5-0)

7. Wine & Malt Beverages Only License

Kostas House of Pizza, Inc., Villa House of Pizza, Charles Dinis, Pres.
1367-1369 Mass. Ave.

Mr. Greeley moved approval.

SO

VOTED (5-0)

Mr. Greeley also asked the Board Administrator to research state law to see if license renewal could be given out for a year from date of approval. Town Counsel stated that Wine & Malt Beverages Only License renewals must be given for calendar year

8. Request for Name Change on Food Vendor License from Page Carter Catering

to Beaujolais Catering

Mike Milan, Owner, 207 Broadway

Mr. Greeley moved approval.

SO

VOTED (5-0)

9. CITIZENS' OPEN FORUM

Any matter presented for consideration of the Board shall neither be acted upon,

nor a decision made the night of the presentation in accordance with the policy

under which the Open Forum was established.

Elsie Fiore asked the Board to be mindful of the flooding issues involved with the Alewife Reservation Master Plan.

TRAFFIC RULES & ORDERS/OTHER BUSINESS10. Petitions for Overnight Parking - 52 Lombard Terrace

Peter Espiefs and R. James Barber
Mr. Greeley moved approval.

SO VOTED

(5-0)

11. For Approval: Payment of Bills

Cyrus E. Dallin Art Museum
Mr. Lyons moved approval.

SO VOTED

(5-0)

12. Request for Position Replacement/Hiring

Nancy T. Galkowski, Acting Town Manager
Acting Town Manager Galkowski requested approval for these position replacements:

- 4 school custodians
- 2 community dispatchers
- supervisor of water and sewerage.

Mr. Greeley requested Mrs. Galkowski to keep the Board up to date and informed of any
and all position replacement/hiring.

Mr. Lyons moved approval.

SO VOTED

(5-0)

13. For Discussion: Opening of Warrant

The Warrant will open December 16, 2002 and will close January 16, 2003 at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Greeley moved approval

SO VOTED (5-0)

Correspondence Received

Ted Selker Spy Pond and other concerns Be Rec'd
90 Jason St.

Louise Medeiros No Heavy Trucking sign on Wright St. Be Rec'd
60 Wright St.

Mike Ruggieri Recycling concerns Be Rec'd
172 Cedar Ave.

William Ceurvals Retirement letter Be Rec'd
Superintendent of
Buildings and
Maintenance
Mr. Greeley moved acceptance of correspondence received.

SO VOTED (5-0)

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Mahon thanked all involved in the successful Holiday Stroll. She also thanked the Acting Town Manager on the rink report and asked that the Board be kept informed with future reports.

Mrs. Mahon asked for a Reed Brooks project update. Mrs. Galkowski

informed the Board that she was trying to get Richard Bento back two or three days a week to tie up major contracts to sure up action plans.

Mr. Greeley congratulated Mr. Lyons on being voted in as 1st Vice President of the National League of Cities which means the following year he will be the President.

Acting Town Manager Galkowski reported that the Department of Revenue approved the new tax rate.

Mr. Maher reported the bill passed that the Town asked legislation to pass for police chief and fire chief protection under civil service, thus resolving a legal issue for the Town.

Mr. Hurd thanked all those involved with the fund-raiser for the Arlington Children's fund. They raised \$17,000. for the fund.

Mr. Lyons moved to adjourn 10:45 p.m. SO
VOTED (5-0)

A true record: Attest:

Marie A. Krepelka
Board Administrator